Dargaud presents

Asterix

THE GAUL

Gaul was divided into three parts

No, four parts for one small village of indomitable Gauls still held out against the Roman invaders...



by

GOSCINNY

and

UDERZO

ASTERIX THE GAUL

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE

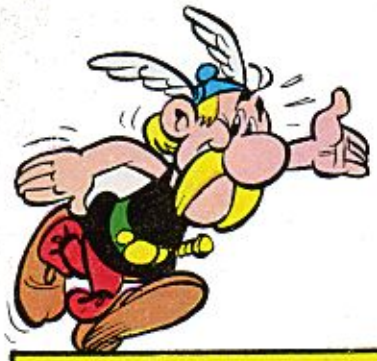


HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND TORONTO



The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...

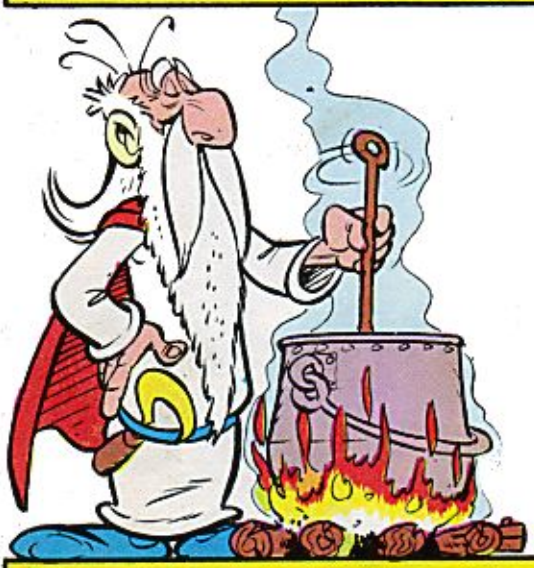
a few of the Gauls



Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...



Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes'.



Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing,


AND AT THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM, IN THE TENT OF CENTURION CRISMUS BONUS..
AVE CRISMUS BONUS! THE PATROL'S BACK!
AVE JULIUS POMPUS! I'LL GO AND INSPECT THEM
AVE....
?!?!?
WHAT HAPPENED, BY ALL THE GODS? WERE YOU ATTACKED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS?
SUPERIOR NUMBERS...
CAN'T QUITE SAY...
THERE WAS ONE OF THEM...
NOT A VERY LARGE ONE EITHER!
BY JUPITER! THERE MUST BE SOME SECRET BEHIND THE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS!
MEANWHILE....
SO YOU'RE BACK ASTERIX. ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN?
NO....
OH YES! I KNOCKED FOUR ROMANS OUT
OH, GOOD!
WANT TO HELP ME EAT MY BOAR?
JUST COMING! I'VE GOT TWO MORE MENHIRS TO DELIVER


COME IN, OBELIX. IT'S DONE TO A TURN!
YUM, YUM, ASTERIX!
THE ROMANS WON'T LIKE THIS. THEY'LL LAUNCH A NEW OFFENSIVE....
HUH!
SO LONG AS OUR DRUID GETAFIX KEEPS BREWING HIS MAGIC POTION, THE ROMANS CAN'T DO A THING
LET'S GO AND SEE THE DRUID NOW!
TCHIC!
TCHAC!
HE'LL BE UP THAT TREE, CUTTING MISTLETOE WITH HIS GOLDEN SICKLE
GETAFIX! O DRUID!
OWW!
YOU MADE ME JUMP! I'VE GONE AND CUT MYSELF WITH MY SICKLE
SORRY....
THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO HAVE MY DOSE OF POTION....
OH, ALL RIGHT...
COME HOME WITH ME....




HERE IS THE POTION THAT MAKES THE DRINKER INVINCIBLE! IT INCREASES HIS STRENGTH TENFOLD - FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME


WHAT'S THE RECIPE, O DRUID ?
THE ORIGIN OF THIS RECIPE IS LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME. IT IS HANDED DOWN FROM DRUID TO DRUID BY WORD OF MOUTH....


ALL I CAN REVEAL IS THAT THERE'S MISTLETOE AND LOBSTER IN IT....


THE LOBSTER IS OPTIONAL, BUT IT IMPROVES THE FLAVOUR!
SPLOSH!


CAN I HAVE SOME ?
NO, OBELIX, YOU CAN NOT AND WELL YOU KNOW IT!

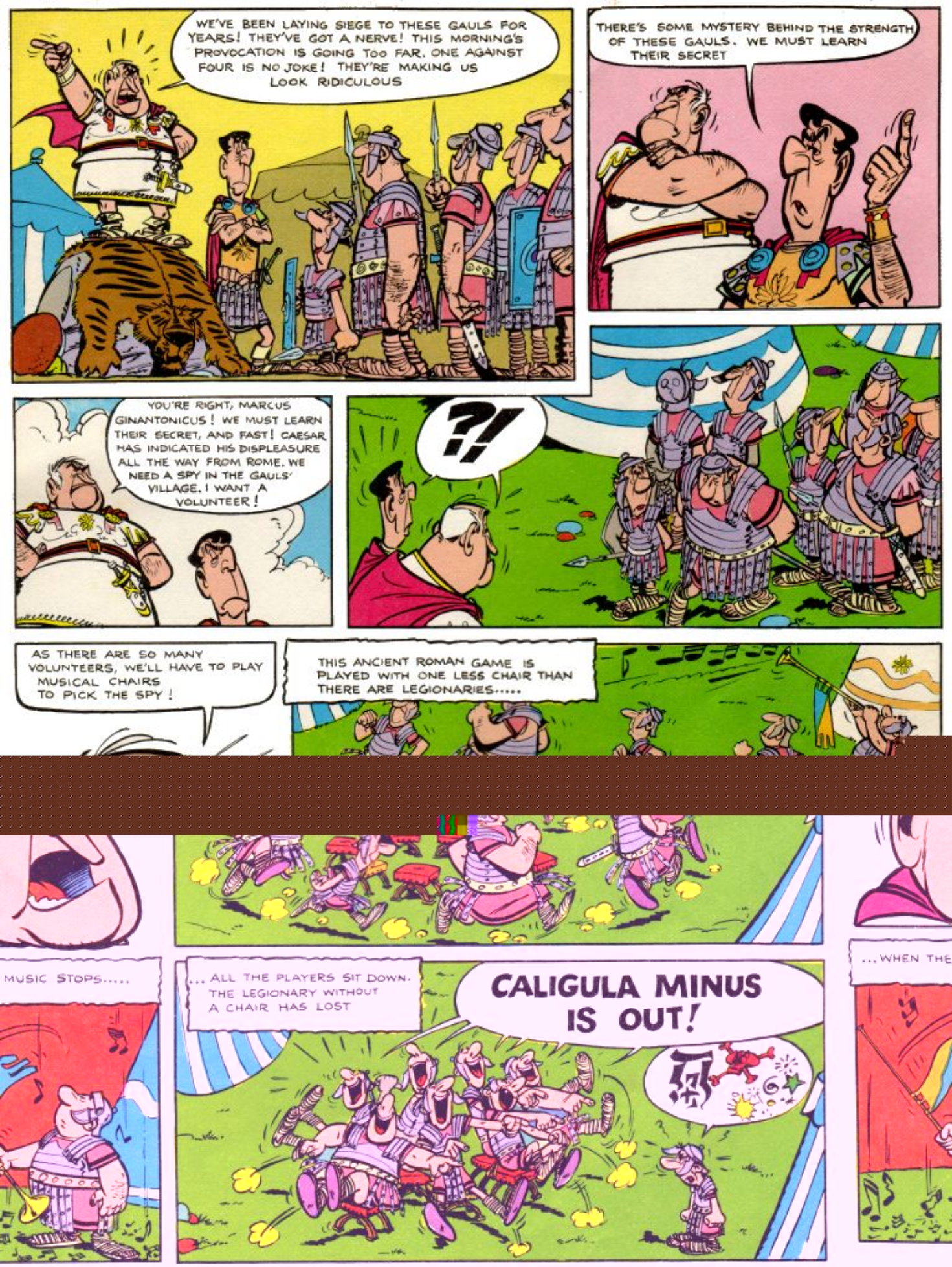

YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND IT HAD A PERMANENT EFFECT ON YOU. IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO DRINK ANY MORE!

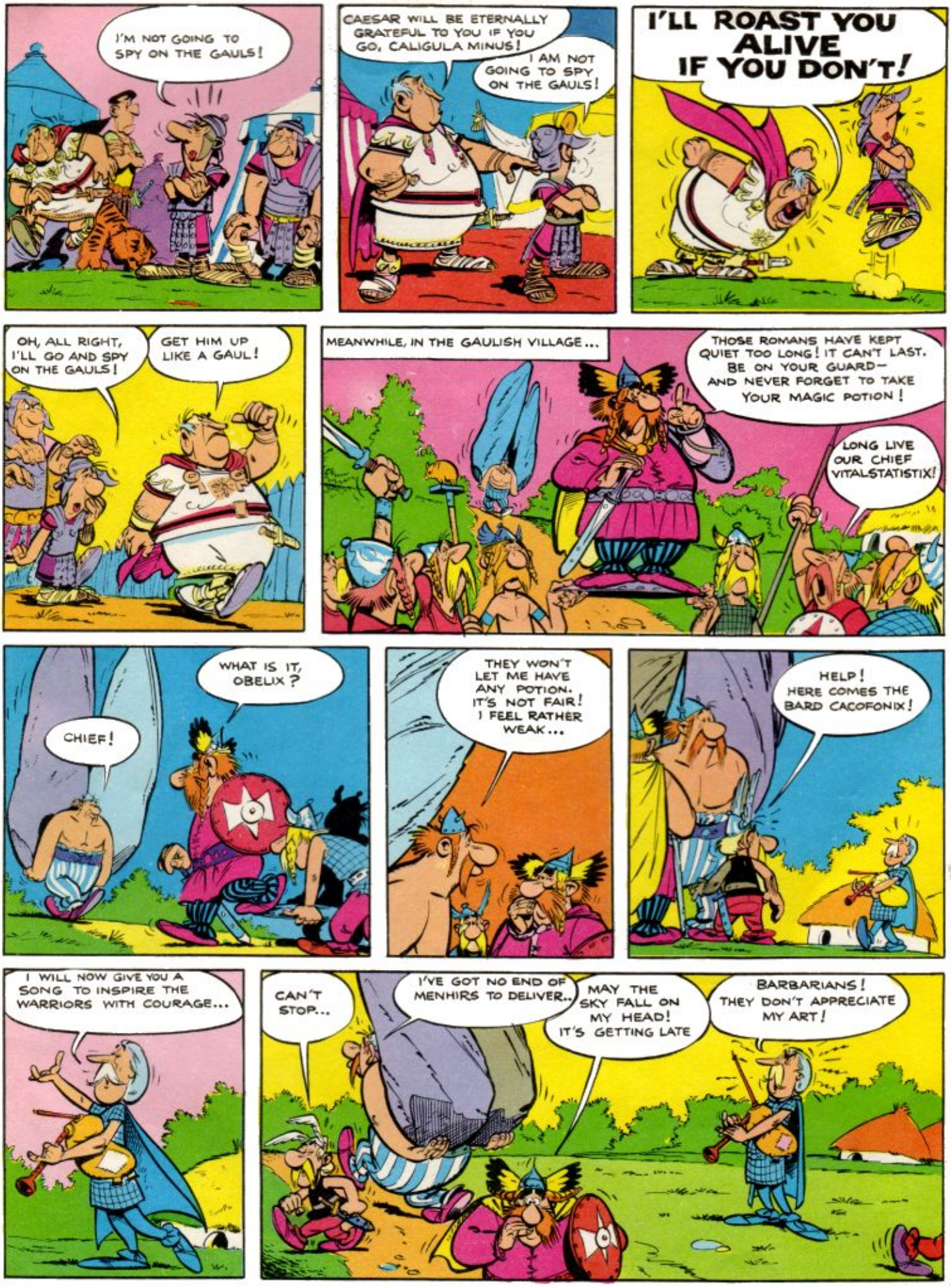

THANKS, O DRUID!
IT'S NOT FAIR, BY BELENOS!

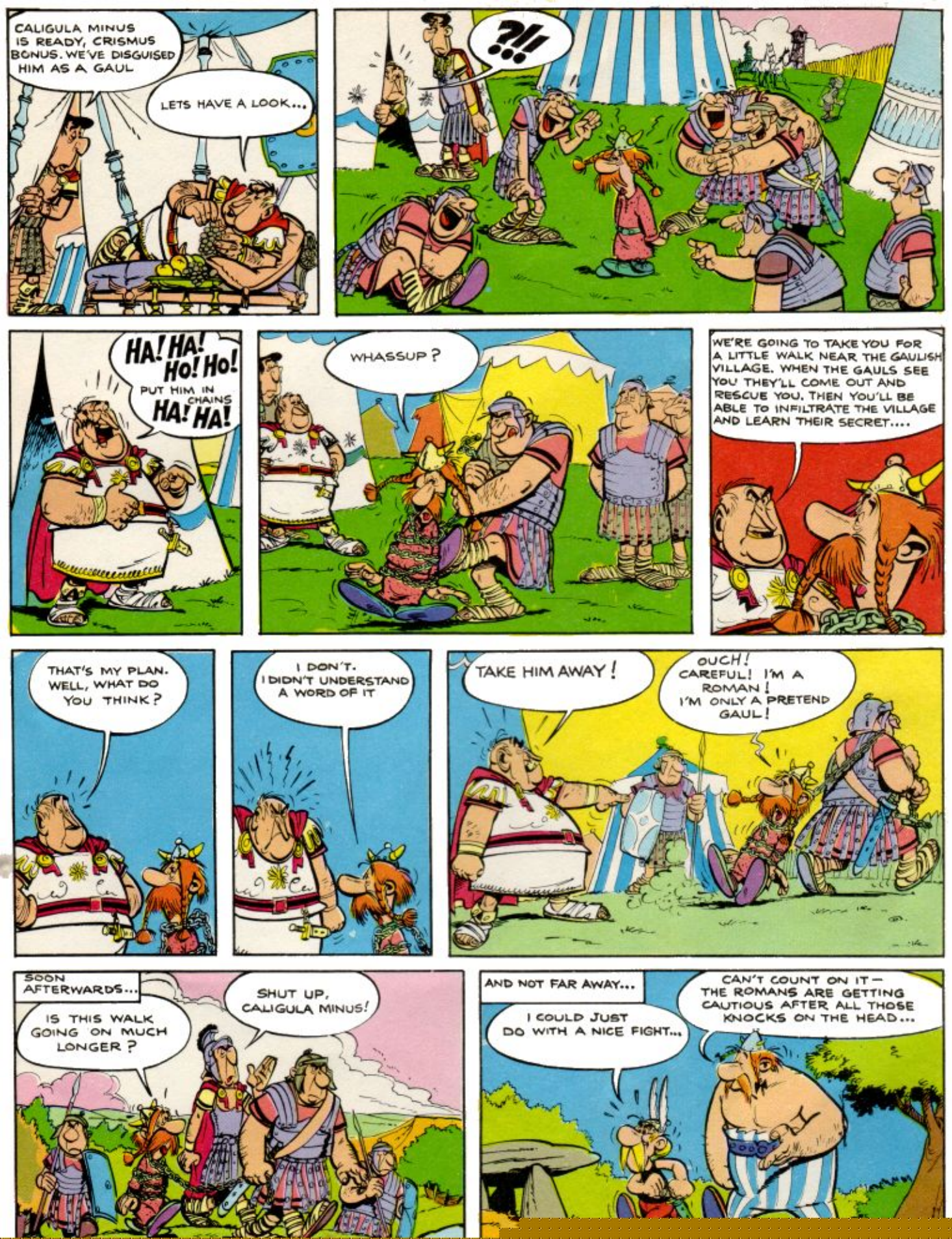


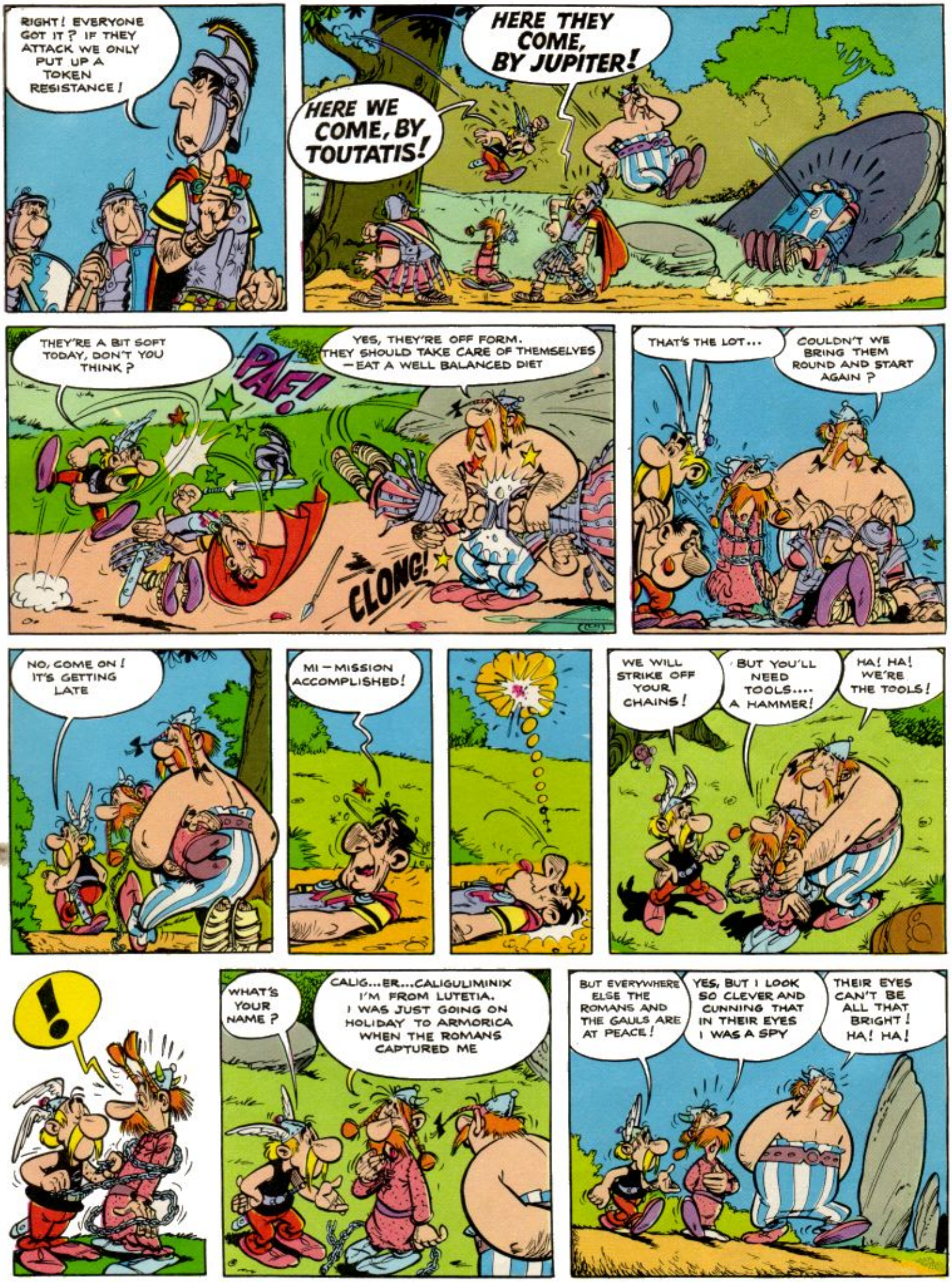





WE'VE BEEN LAYING SIEGE TO THESE GAULS FOR YEARS! THEY'VE GOT A NERVE! THIS MORNING'S PROVOCATION IS GOING TOO FAR. ONE AGAINST FOUR IS NO JOKE! THEY'RE MAKING US LOOK RIDICULOUS
THERE'S SOME MYSTERY BEHIND THE STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS. WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET
YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCUS GINANTONICUS! WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET, AND FAST! CAESAR HAS INDICATED HIS DISPLEASURE ALL THE WAY FROM ROME. WE NEED A SPY IN THE GAULS' VILLAGE. I WANT A VOLUNTEER!
?!
AS THERE ARE SO MANY VOLUNTEERS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS TO PICK THE SPY!
THIS ANCIENT ROMAN GAME IS PLAYED WITH ONE LESS CHAIR THAN THERE ARE LEGIONARIES.....
MUSIC STOPS.....
... ALL THE PLAYERS SIT DOWN. THE LEGIONARY WITHOUT A CHAIR HAS LOST
CALIGULA MINUS IS OUT!
...WHEN THE

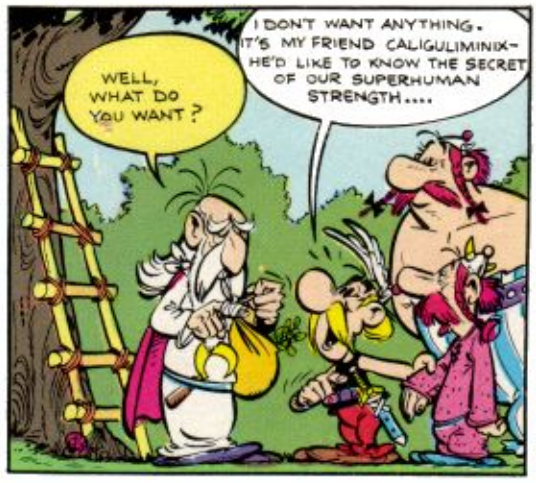

I'M NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!
CAESAR WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU IF YOU GO, CALIGULA MINUS!
I AM NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!
I'LL ROAST YOU ALIVE IF YOU DON'T!
OH, ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO AND SPY ON THE GAULS!
GET HIM UP LIKE A GAUL!
MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...
THOSE ROMANS HAVE KEPT QUIET TOO LONG! IT CAN'T LAST. BE ON YOUR GUARD— AND NEVER FORGET TO TAKE YOUR MAGIC POTION!
LONG LIVE OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!
CHIEF!
WHAT IS IT, OBELIX?
THEY WON'T LET ME HAVE ANY POTION. IT'S NOT FAIR! I FEEL RATHER WEAK...
HELP! HERE COMES THE BARD CACOFONIX!
I WILL NOW GIVE YOU A SONG TO INSPIRE THE WARRIORS WITH COURAGE...
CAN'T STOP...
I'VE GOT NO END OF MENHIRS TO DELIVER..
MAY THE SKY FALL ON MY HEAD! IT'S GETTING LATE
BARBARIANS! THEY DON'T APPRECIATE MY ART!


CALIGULA MINUS IS READY, CRISMUS BONUS. WE'VE DISGUISED HIM AS A GAUL
LETS HAVE A LOOK...
?!!
HA! HA! HO! HO!
PUT HIM IN CHAINS
HA! HA!
WHASSUP?
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU FOR A LITTLE WALK NEAR THE GAULISH VILLAGE. WHEN THE GAULS SEE YOU THEY'LL COME OUT AND RESCUE YOU. THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO INFILTRATE THE VILLAGE AND LEARN THEIR SECRET....
THAT'S MY PLAN. WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I DON'T. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF IT
TAKE HIM AWAY!
OUCH! CAREFUL! I'M A ROMAN! I'M ONLY A PRETEND GAUL!
SOON AFTERWARDS...
IS THIS WALK GOING ON MUCH LONGER?
SHUT UP, CALIGULA MINUS!
AND NOT FAR AWAY...
I COULD JUST DO WITH A NICE FIGHT...
CAN'T COUNT ON IT — THE ROMANS ARE GETTING CAUTIOUS AFTER ALL THOSE KNOCKS ON THE HEAD...


RIGHT! EVERYONE GOT IT? IF THEY ATTACK WE ONLY PUT UP A TOKEN RESISTANCE!
HERE WE COME, BY TOUTATIS!
HERE THEY COME, BY JUPITER!
THEY'RE A BIT SOFT TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES, THEY'RE OFF FORM. THEY SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES — EAT A WELL BALANCED DIET
PAF!
CLONG!
THAT'S THE LOT...
COULDN'T WE BRING THEM ROUND AND START AGAIN?
NO, COME ON! IT'S GETTING LATE
MI — MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
WE WILL STRIKE OFF YOUR CHAINS!
BUT YOU'LL NEED TOOLS.... A HAMMER!
HA! HA! WE'RE THE TOOLS!
!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CALIG...ER...CALIGULIMINIX I'M FROM LUTETIA. I WAS JUST GOING ON HOLIDAY TO ARMORICA WHEN THE ROMANS CAPTURED ME
BUT EVERYWHERE ELSE THE ROMANS AND THE GAULS ARE AT PEACE!
YES, BUT I LOOK SO CLEVER AND CUNNING THAT IN THEIR EYES I WAS A SPY
THEIR EYES CAN'T BE ALL THAT BRIGHT! HA! HA!


MARCUS GINANTONICUS AND HIS HEROIC DETACHMENT RETURN TO COMPENDIUM....
THE GAULS CAME AND SAW AND CONQUERED CALIGULA MINUS!
A GREAT VICTORY FOR US!
LET'S HOPE CALIGULA MINUS GETS BACK IN ONE PIECE TO TELL US WHAT HE'S SEEN!
HE'D BETTER! IF NOT I'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO HIS ROMAN REMAINS!
ALEA JACTA EST!
PARDON?
MEANWHILE....
THIS IS OUR VILLAGE, CALIGULIMINIX. YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE! IT'S FULL OF GAULS!
THAT'S A GREAT COMFORT
ASTERIX AND OBELIX ARE BACK!
THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING WITH THEM!
SOMETHING VERY PECULIAR, BY BELENOS!
COME AND MEET OUR CHIEF, VITALSTATISTIX
BUT- BUT THEY'RE ALL ARMED!
YES, WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO FIGHT THE ROMANS AT THE DROP OF A HELMET
A WISE PRECAUTION!


OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX IS IN THERE WITH GETAFIX THE DRUID. THEY'VE HEARD YOU'RE HERE
WELCOME, BROTHER! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!
AV... ER... HOW DO YOU DO?
I WILL NOW SING A SONG OF WELCOME!
JUST GO AND LOOK UP AN OAK TREE TO SEE IF I'M THERE!
TAKE A STROLL ROUND THE VILLAGE TILL DINNER TIME. BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR. THERE ARE ROMANS ABOUT
RIGHT!
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF TOOLS THEY USE FOR WORKING METAL...
FULLIAUTOMATIX
WEAPONS FOR ALL THE FAMILY
BING!
BONNG!
CLING!
?
CLANG!
HIS HANDS, BY JUPITER! HIS BARE HANDS!
CLONG!
CLING!
HOW'S THAT MENHIR GOING ?
OH, IT'S COMING ALONG!
???
THEY CERTAINLY ARE VERY STRONG... MAYBE CRISMUS BONUS WAS RIGHT. THEY MUST HAVE SOME SECRET!


WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT ?
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING. IT'S MY FRIEND CALIGULIMINIX- HE'D LIKE TO KNOW THE SECRET OF OUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH....


NOTHING DOING !
!


I HAVE TO GET HOME TO MY FAMILY.... GO BACK TO WORK....


WHAT DO YOU DO, ANYWAY?
ER... OH I'M A GUIDE. I SHOW BARBARIAN TOURISTS ROUND THE NIGHT LIFE OF LUTETIA...


WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT, DRUID ?
NO, NO, AND FOR THE THIRD TIME, NO!


OH, FINE! THAT'S JUST FINE! I QUITE SEE!

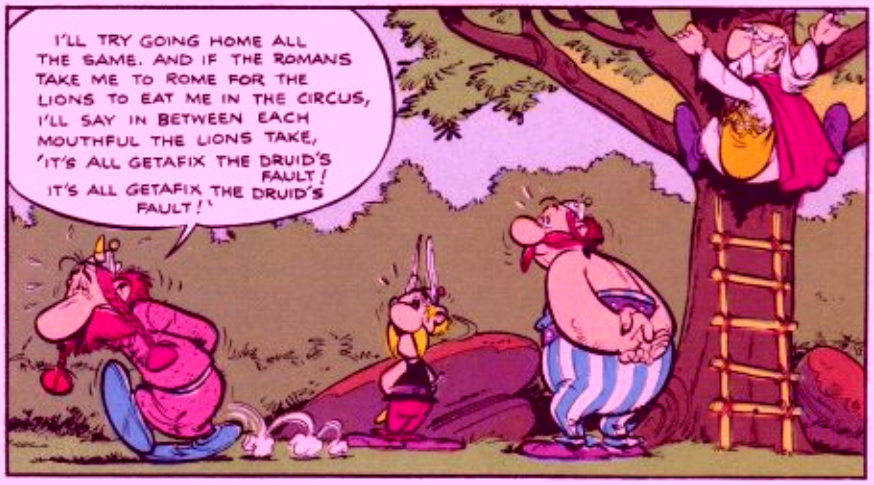






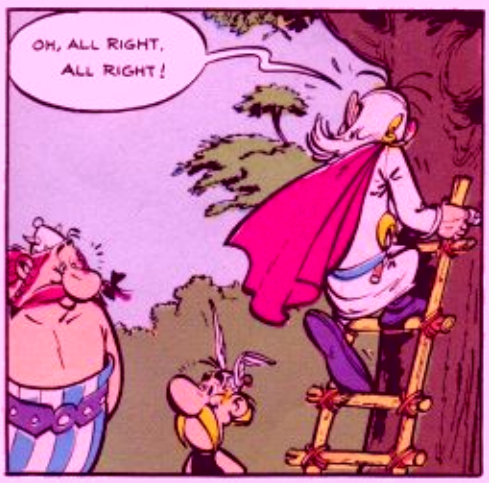





I'LL TRY GOING HOME ALL THE SAME. AND IF THE ROMANS TAKE ME TO ROME FOR THE LIONS TO EAT ME IN THE CIRCUS, I'LL SAY IN BETWEEN EACH MOUTHFUL THE LIONS TAKE, 'IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT! IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT!'

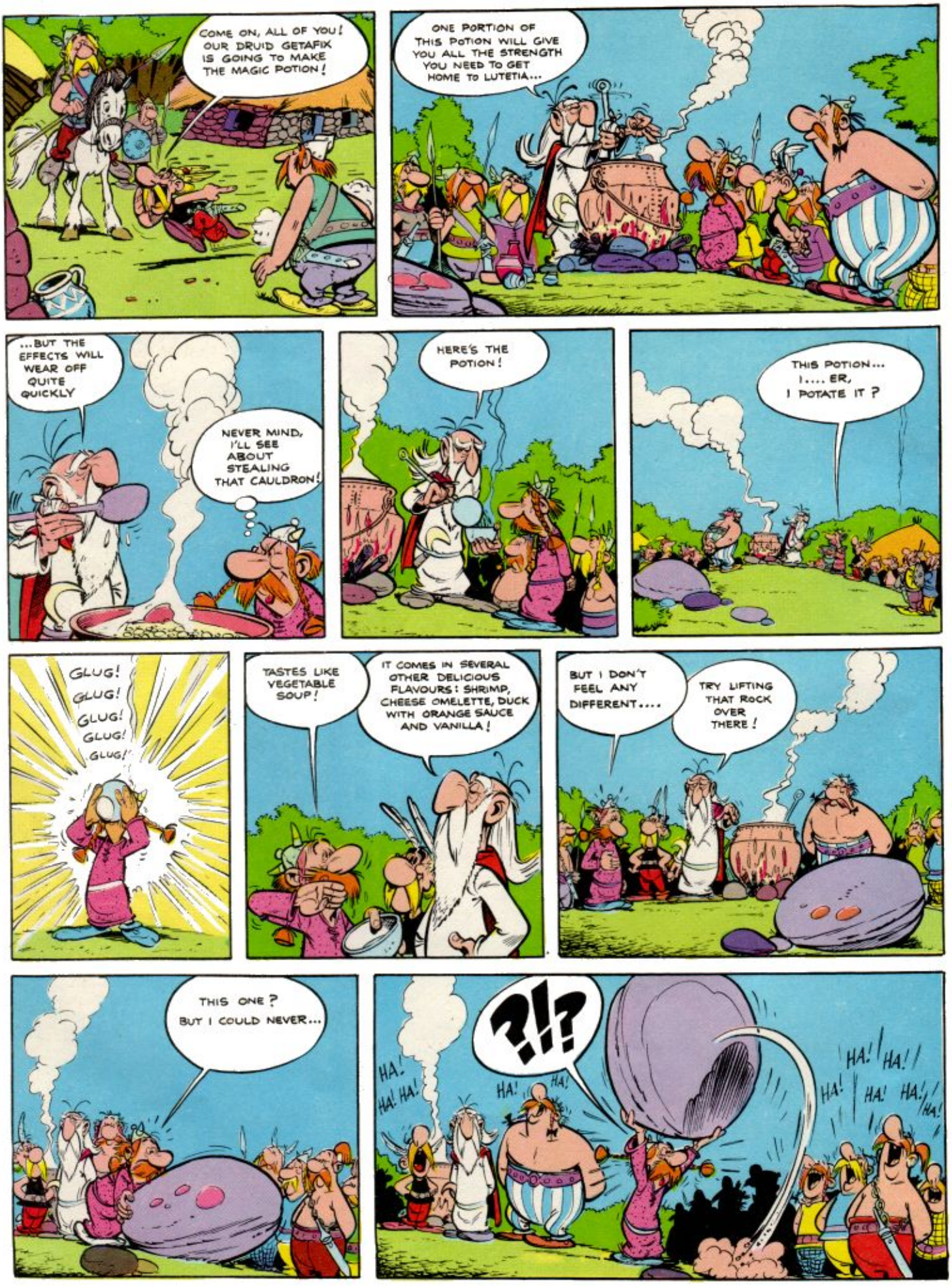



SECRET YOU EAT ?

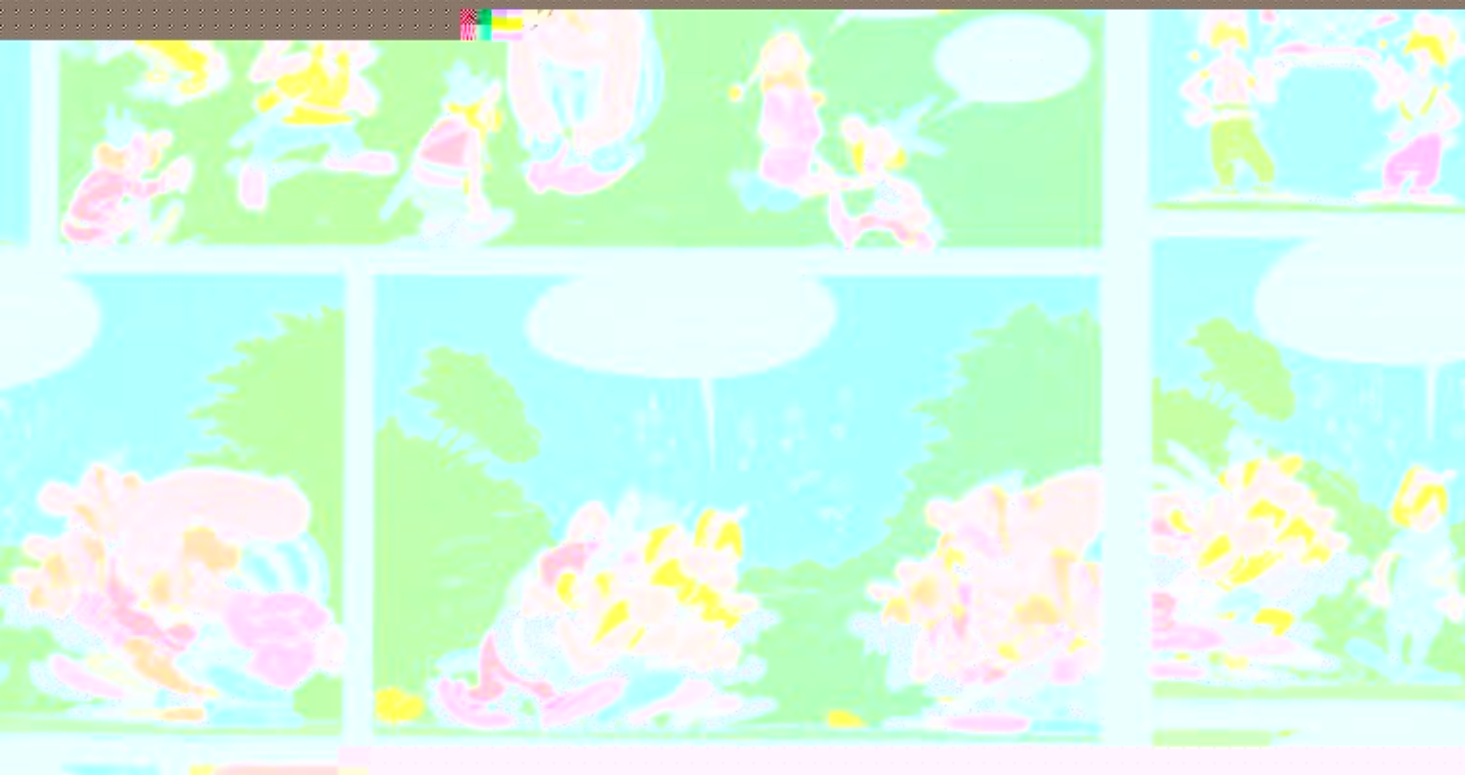

OH, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!


COME BACK, CALIGULIMINIX!


I'LL SHOW YOU MY SECRET. I'LL EVEN LET YOU TASTE IT
IT'S A CAN

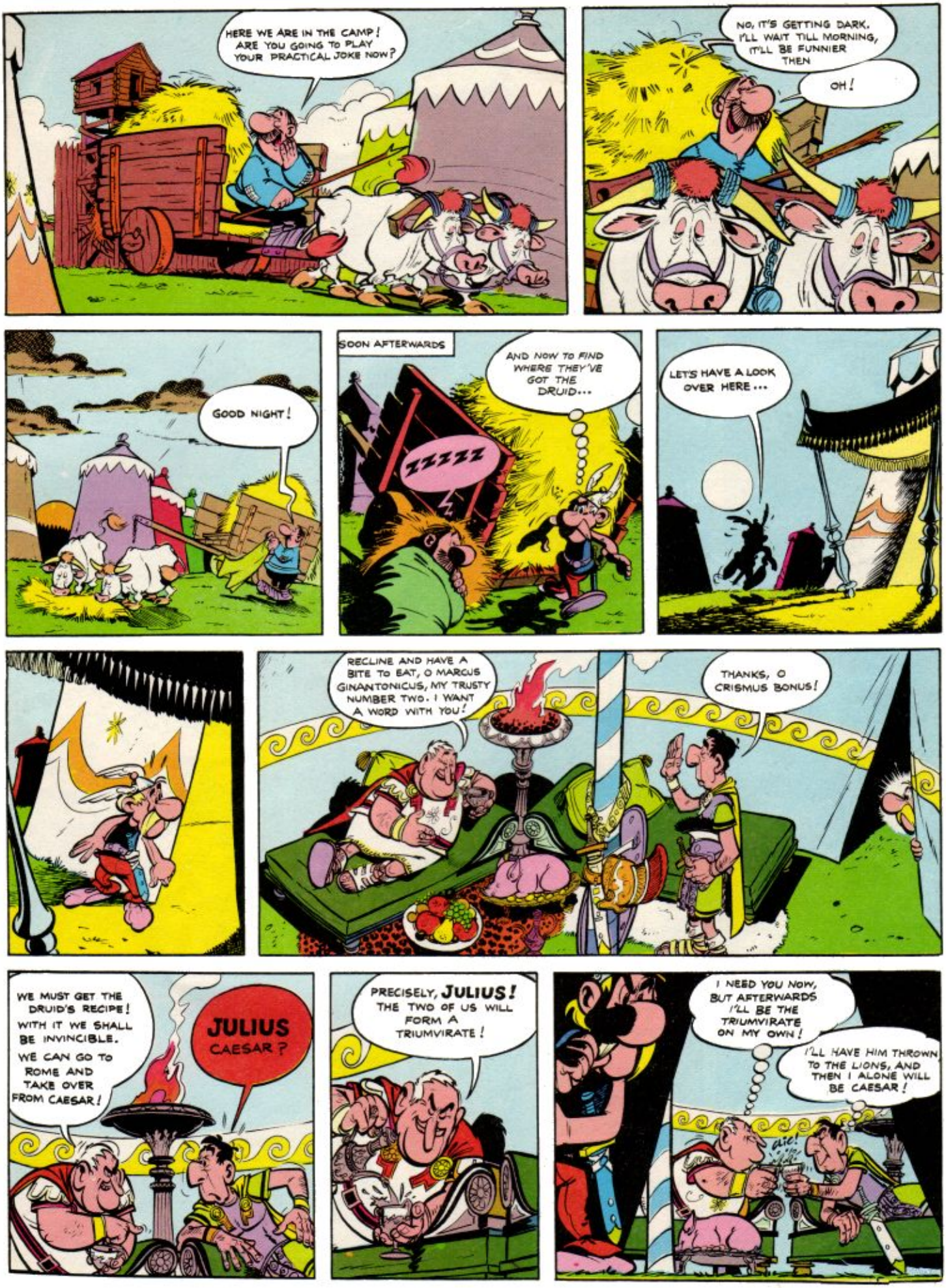

COME ON, ALL OF YOU! OUR DRUID GETAFIX IS GOING TO MAKE THE MAGIC POTION!
ONE PORTION OF THIS POTION WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE STRENGTH YOU NEED TO GET HOME TO LUTETIA...
...BUT THE EFFECTS WILL WEAR OFF QUITE QUICKLY
NEVER MIND, I'LL SEE ABOUT STEALING THAT CAULDRON!
HERE'S THE POTION!
THIS POTION... I.... ER, I POTATE IT?
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
TASTES LIKE VEGETABLE SOUP!
IT COMES IN SEVERAL OTHER DELICIOUS FLAVOURS: SHRIMP, CHEESE OMELETTE, DUCK WITH ORANGE SAUCE AND VANILLA!
BUT I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT....
TRY LIFTING THAT ROCK OVER THERE!
THIS ONE? BUT I COULD NEVER...
?!?
HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!


THIS IS GREAT!
KERPLONK!
THE POTION MAKES YOU VERY STRONG, BUT NOT INVULNERABLE... I DO HAVE A RECIPE FOR THAT, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY....



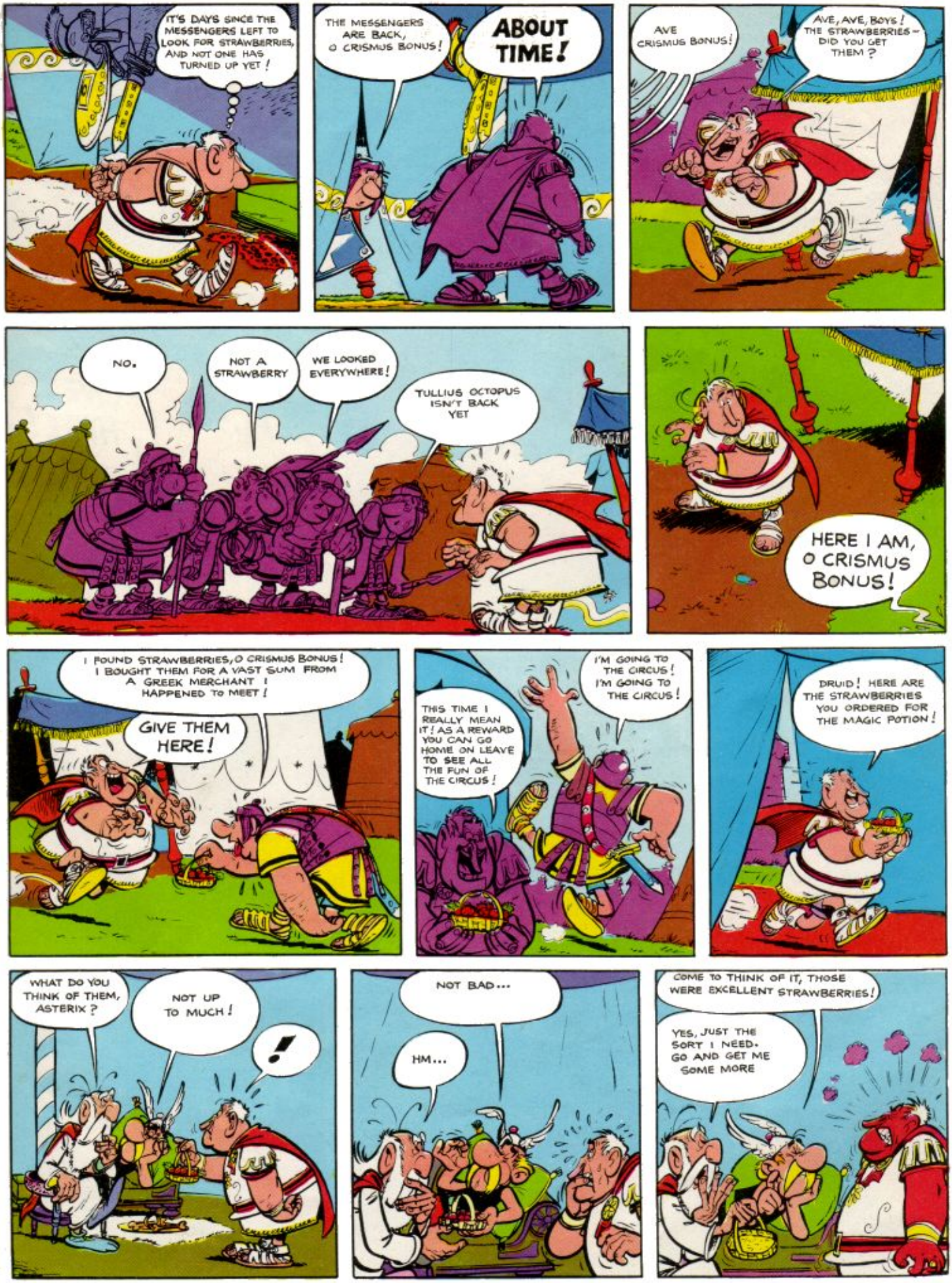

MOUSTACHE!
?!?


WE'RE COMING TO COMPENDIUM NOW!
HEY— WHY ARE YOU HITTING THE HAY?
ER... OH, I WANT TO PLAY A PRACTICAL JOKE ON MY FRIENDS THE ROMANS
HA! HA! THAT'S RICH! I LOVE PRACTICAL JOKES!
HO! HO! HO!
BY TOUTATIS, WHAT A PRIZE IDIOT OF AN OX DEALER!
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THAT CART, FRIEND?
NOTHING! TEEHEE!
BY JUPITER, ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME?
HA! HA! HO! HO! HO!
THIS FATHEAD WILL SPOIL EVERYTHING!
WHAT'S UP, GRACCHUS SEXTILIUS?
THIS OX DEALER'S BEING FUNNY, CLAUDIUS QUINTILIUS!
HO! HO! HO!
LET HIM PASS. I KNOW HIM. HE'S QUITE HARMLESS!
PHEW!


HERE WE ARE IN THE CAMP! ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY YOUR PRACTICAL JOKE NOW?
NO, IT'S GETTING DARK. I'LL WAIT TILL MORNING, IT'LL BE FUNNIER THEN
OH!
GOOD NIGHT!
SOON AFTERWARDS
AND NOW TO FIND WHERE THEY'VE GOT THE DRUID...
ZZZZZ
LET'S HAVE A LOOK OVER HERE...
RECLINE AND HAVE A BITE TO EAT, O MARCUS GINANTONICUS, MY TRUSTY NUMBER TWO. I WANT A WORD WITH YOU!
THANKS, O CRISMUS BONUS!
WE MUST GET THE DRUID'S RECIPE! WITH IT WE SHALL BE INVINCIBLE. WE CAN GO TO ROME AND TAKE OVER FROM CAESAR!
JULIUS CAESAR?
PRECISELY, JULIUS! THE TWO OF US WILL FORM A TRIUMVIRATE!
I NEED YOU NOW, BUT AFTERWARDS I'LL BE THE TRIUMVIRATE ON MY OWN!
I'LL HAVE HIM THROWN TO THE LIONS, AND THEN I ALONE WILL BE CAESAR!
clic!

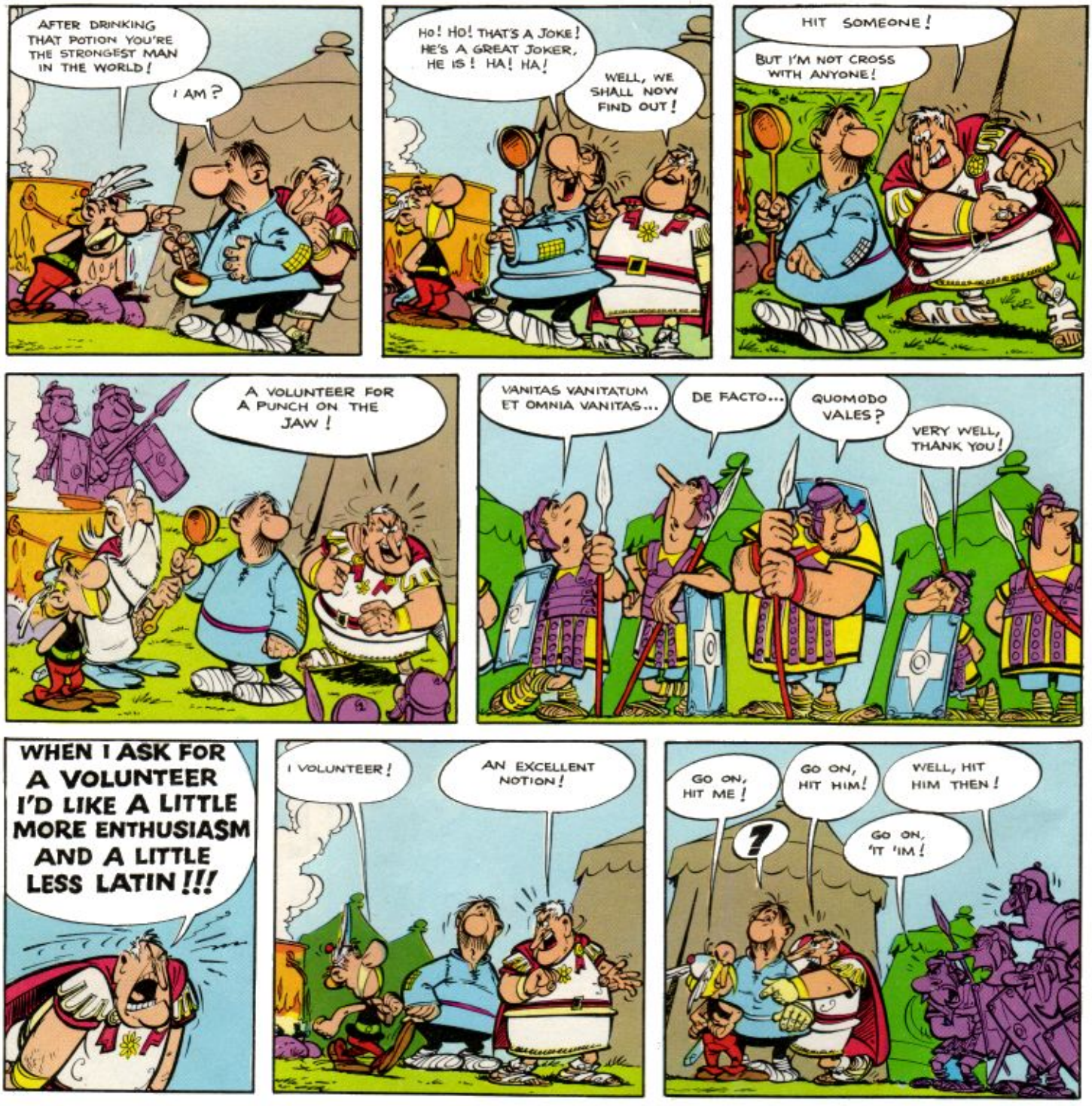

MOST INTERESTING, BUT IT TELLS ME NOTHING OF GETAFIX'S WHEREABOUTS!
HE MUST BE IN THAT HEAVILY GUARDED TENT...
THE BOLD APPROACH!
DO YOU MIND? I'VE JUST COME TO RESCUE GETAFIX THE DRUID. HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE
?!?!
THANKS!
DON'T LET HIM OUT! HE'S ONE OF THOSE INVINCIBLE GAULS... MAGIC POTION FAIRLY OOZING OUT OF HIS EARS! I'M GOING FOR REINFORCEMENTS!
V...VERY WELL! BUT DON'T BE LONG, O CAIUS FLEBITUS!
ZWWI
AND INSIDE THE TENT...
ASTERIX!
ALL WELL?
BY BELISAMA, ASTERIX! WHAT MADNESS TO VENTURE RIGHT INTO THE JAWS OF THE ROMAN WOLF!
THE ROMANS CAN'T DO A THING AGAINST MY MAGIC POWERS!
EXACTLY! WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN WITH THEM! I'VE GOT A FEW IDEAS!
SIR! SIR!

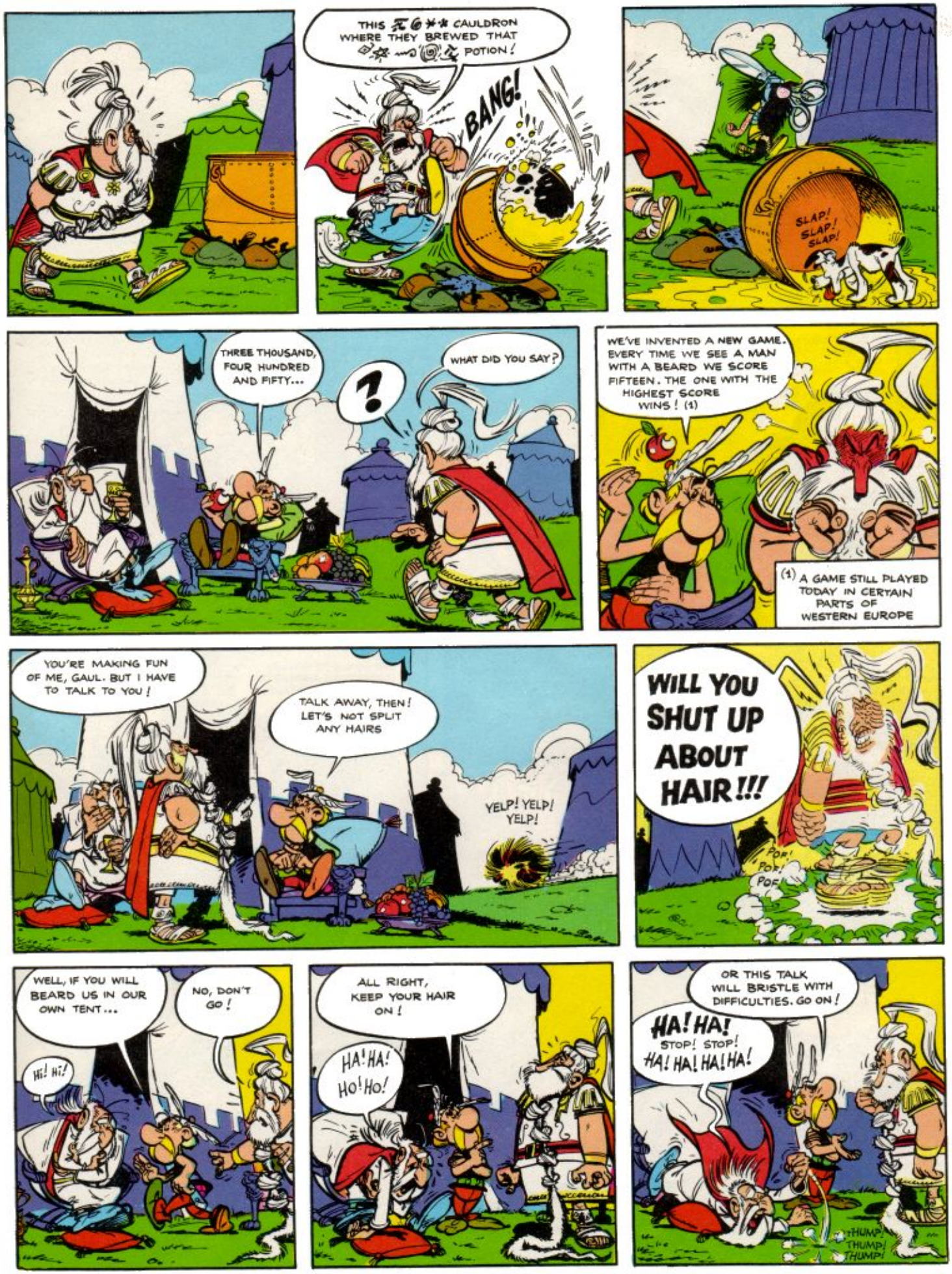

O CRISMUS BONUS!
NOW WHAT?
WE'VE CAPTURED A GAUL IN THE DRUID'S TENT BUT WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS TO STOP THE PRISONER GETTING AWAY !!!
BY JUPITER! SOUND THE ALARM!
TANTANTARA
SOON AFTERWARDS
I CAN'T HANG ABOUT ALL DAY!
CLINK!
CLONK!
CLICK


IT'S DAYS SINCE THE MESSENGERS LEFT TO LOOK FOR STRAWBERRIES, AND NOT ONE HAS TURNED UP YET !
THE MESSENGERS ARE BACK, O CRISMUS BONUS!
ABOUT TIME!
AVE CRISMUS BONUS!
AVE, AVE, BOYS ! THE STRAWBERRIES – DID YOU GET THEM ?
NO.
NOT A STRAWBERRY
WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!
TULLIUS OCTOPUS ISN'T BACK YET
HERE I AM, O CRISMUS BONUS!
I FOUND STRAWBERRIES, O CRISMUS BONUS! I BOUGHT THEM FOR A VAST SUM FROM A GREEK MERCHANT I HAPPENED TO MEET !
GIVE THEM HERE!
THIS TIME I REALLY MEAN IT ! AS A REWARD YOU CAN GO HOME ON LEAVE TO SEE ALL THE FUN OF THE CIRCUS !
I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS ! I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS !
DRUID ! HERE ARE THE STRAWBERRIES YOU ORDERED FOR THE MAGIC POTION !
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM, ASTERIX ?
NOT UP TO MUCH !
!
NOT BAD...
HM...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THOSE WERE EXCELLENT STRAWBERRIES!
YES, JUST THE SORT I NEED. GO AND GET ME SOME MORE


YOU'VE EATEN MY STRAWBERRIES AND NOW YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY STRAWBERRIES AND YOU WANT MORE STRAWBERRIES AND IT'S NOT FAIR AND I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD ENOUGH!
PAF! PAF! PAF!
THERE, THERE! NEVER MIND! WE'LL MAKE YOU YOUR POTION..
OF COURSE WE WILL!
WE CAN ALWAYS MAKE THE POTION WITHOUT STRAWBERRIES, ONLY IT WON'T BE THE SAME...
THE STRAWBERRIES DO LEAVE A TASTE IN THE MOUTH...
SNIFF! SNIFF!
IT'S DONE! SERVE HOT!
GIVE IT HERE!
HOW DO I KNOW THIS SOUP ISN'T POISONED, BY JUPITER?
I'LL DRINK SOME IF YOU LIKE, BY TOUTATIS!
NO! IF THIS IS THE REAL STUFF, YOUR STRENGTH WILL INCREASE TENFOLD! YOU'LL BE INVINCIBLE! I NEED A VOLUNTEER!
I SAID: I NEED A VOLUNTEER!!!
QUID NOVI?
SURSUM CORDA!
SO WHAT?
O CRISMUS BONUS, WE DON'T WANT TO RISK A LEGIONARY'S LIFE. WE OUGHT TO EXPERIMENT ON SOME HARMLESS NATIVE...


?
NICE TO SEE YOU, OLD CHAP! HOW'S LIFE TREATING YOU?
ME?
NOT TOO WELL! I MET A MAN WHO SAID I'D SELL MY CART AT COMPENDIUM AND SO HE GOT ME TO COME HERE AND NOW NO ONE WANTS TO BUY MY CART AND I NEED MY OXEN...
?
AND IT'S ALL HIS FAULT!
?
I DIDN'T QUITE FOLLOW YOUR STORY, BUT HAVE A DRINK TO CHEER YOU UP...
!
NO, THANK YOU. REALLY! I MUST GO AND TRY TO SELL MY CART AT THE NEXT CAMP...
HAVE SOME !!!
?!!
OH, ALL RIGHT!
SLURP! SLURP! SLURRRP!
WHY ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT? HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN A CART DEALER DRINKING SOUP BEFORE?
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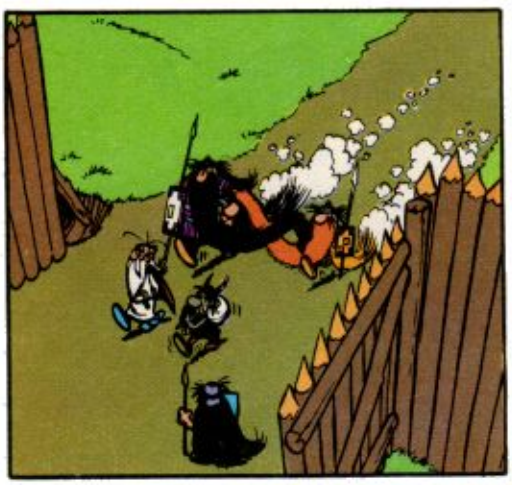

AFTER DRINKING THAT POTION YOU'RE THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
I AM?
HO! HO! THAT'S A JOKE! HE'S A GREAT JOKER, HE IS! HA! HA!
WELL, WE SHALL NOW FIND OUT!
HIT SOMEONE!
BUT I'M NOT CROSS WITH ANYONE!
A VOLUNTEER FOR A PUNCH ON THE JAW!
VANITAS VANITATUM ET OMNIA VANITAS...
DE FACTO...
QUOMODO VALES?
VERY WELL, THANK YOU!
WHEN I ASK FOR A VOLUNTEER I'D LIKE A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSIASM AND A LITTLE LESS LATIN!!!
I VOLUNTEER!
AN EXCELLENT NOTION!
GO ON, HIT ME!
GO ON, HIT HIM!
WELL, HIT HIM THEN!
GO ON, 'IT 'IM!
?


THIS ?@*# CAULDRON WHERE THEY BREWED THAT ?@*# POTION!
BANG!
SLAP! SLAP! SLAP!
THREE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY...
?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WE'VE INVENTED A NEW GAME. EVERY TIME WE SEE A MAN WITH A BEARD WE SCORE FIFTEEN. THE ONE WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE WINS! (1)
(1) A GAME STILL PLAYED TODAY IN CERTAIN PARTS OF WESTERN EUROPE
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME, GAUL. BUT I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
TALK AWAY, THEN! LET'S NOT SPLIT ANY HAIRS
YELP! YELP! YELP!
WILL YOU SHUT UP ABOUT HAIR!!!
POF! POF! POF!
WELL, IF YOU WILL BEARD US IN OUR OWN TENT...
NO, DON'T GO!
HI! HI!
ALL RIGHT, KEEP YOUR HAIR ON!
HA! HA! HO! HO!
OR THIS TALK WILL BRISTLE WITH DIFFICULTIES. GO ON!
HA! HA! STOP! STOP! HA! HA! HA! HA!
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!


I GIVE IN! GIVE ME THE ANTIDOTE AND YOU CAN GO FREE!
TRY A HAIR OF THE DOG?
GETAFIX MAY NOT REMEMBER THE ANTIDOTE...
HE'S A BIT HARE-BRAINED SOMETIMES!
HO! HO! HO!
DON'T DISTRESS YOURSELF! WE AGREE!
I'LL HAVE TO GO AND FETCH INGREDIENTS FROM THE FOREST...
!
I'LL ARRANGE FOR AN ESCORT...
I MAY NOT HAVE THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION, BUT AS SOON AS I'VE GOT RID OF THIS HAIR I'LL WIPE OUT THOSE TWO GAULS. IT WILL GIVE ME MORAL SATISFACTION!
WHY WERE YOU SO QUICK TO ACCEPT HIS OFFER? THAT CENTURION MEANS MISCHIEF!
THE EFFECTS OF THE HAIR LOTION DON'T LAST LONG...
TOMORROW THEIR HAIR WILL HAVE STOPPED GROWING. I MUST THINK OF A WAY OUT OF THIS!
REPORTING TO ESCORT YOU TO THE FOREST FOR INGREDIENTS!
STOP WALKING ON MY HAIR!
WELL, PICK IT UP, THEN!
I HAVE A PLAN!
THAT'S OUR STRONG POINT, WE'RE BURSTING WITH IDEAS!


HURRY UP! OUR BEARDS ARE GROWING!

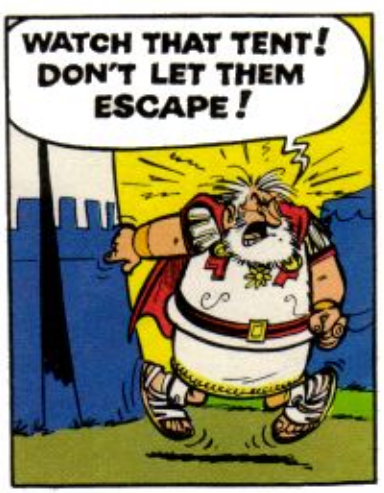

I THINK WE'VE GOT JUST ABOUT ALL WE NEED...




HERE WE ARE AGAIN!
GOOD— GET STARTED!
PHEW! NOW I CAN REST! THAT'S THREE HOURS I'VE BEEN WORKING NON-STOP!


WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I WANT TO WATCH YOU PREPARE THE ANTIDOTE!


TUT! TUT! NOTHING DOING! WE NEED PEACE AND QUIET! YOU'RE TOO JUMPY!
!


WATCH THAT TENT! DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!




RIGHT! HERE GOES!


NOW, ASTERIX, THIS LITTLE CAULDRON HOLDS MAGIC POTION – WE'LL NEED PLENTY OF STRENGTH TO GET US OUT OF HERE...
THE LARGE CAULDRON WILL CONTAIN ANTIDOTE: WATER, VEGETABLES, MARROW-BONE, SALT... WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE SOME GOOD SOUP, SINCE WE'LL HAVE TO TASTE IT IN FRONT OF THE ROMANS...
SOON AFTERWARDS...
THE MAGIC POTION IS READY! TAKE A GOOD SWIG!
YOU CAN CALL THE OTHERS NOW...
SOUP'S UP!
BRING THE CAULDRON HERE!
COMING! COMING!
YOU HAVE SOME FIRST!
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
GLOP! GLOP! GLOP!
VERY GOOD... A FEW CROUTONS MIGHT IMPROVE IT...
?


NOW IT'S YOUR TURN...
AND HOW CAN I BE SURE THIS POTION WILL STOP MY HAIR GROWING?
YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING, ROMAN! LOOK AT MY MOUSTACHE – IT'S NOT GROWING ANY LONGER!
SO IT ISN'T, BY JUPITER! LET'S HAVE SOME!
GREEDY PIGS!
YES, AND JUST THINK OF ALL THOSE HAIRS IN THE SOUP! UGH!
AHA! NOW THEN...
SEIZE THEM!!!
WITH PLEASURE!
CURLYLOCKS, CURLYLOCKS, WILT THOU BE MINE
LEGGO!
HELP!
?


LET GO!
RIGHT!
BOING!
COME ON! LET'S GO BEFORE THEY COME ROUND!
JUST AS I WAS BEGINNING TO ENJOY MYSELF!
!
VADE RETRO!!
THOP!
ROMANS!
HEAPS OF ROMANS!
THERE ARE MORE OVER THERE TOO!
AND OVER THERE! WE'RE SURROUNDED!
REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVING IN THE NICK OF TIME!
WE'RE IN A SPOT!


THIS TIME I'LL ROAST YOU ALIVE!
O CRISMUS BONUS, YOU'RE WANTED URGENTLY IN YOUR TENT...
?
URGENTLY?
URGENTLY
SPQR
WHO'S LEFT THIS CLOAK LYING AROUND MY TENT?
KINDLY RENDER UNTO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CAESAR'S!
!
JULIUS CAESAR!!!
WHO ELSE?
I'VE COME TO SEE HOW YOU'RE GETTING ON WITH THOSE INVINCIBLE GAULS. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE TO PREVENT THE GARRISON WELCOMING ME WITH THE CUSTOMARY HONOURS?
WELL... ER... IT SO HAPPENS WE'RE FIGHTING THE GAULS AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
GAULS? HOW MANY GAULS?
?
!
TWO!
BY CLEOPATRA, SHOW ME THIS PRECIOUS PAIR WHO CAN UPSET A WHOLE GARRISON OF LEGIONARIES!
43.B



PRINTED IN BELGIUM
proost Turnhout (Belgium)